

**Minutes
Board of Health Special Meeting
Chelan-Douglas Health District
May 11, 2020**

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville and Board of Health Chair, called the special meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom video-conferencing and by phone. Participants could attend using either platform, with login information posted on the opening page of the CDHD web site.

Board Members Present:

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville
Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner
Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner
Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner
Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner
John Sterk, East Wenatchee City Council
Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council
Sharon Waters, Leavenworth City Council

Staff Present:

Barry Kling, Administrator
Kandis Boersema, Associate Administrator, Fiscal and Support Services;
Interim Board Secretary
Veronica Farias, Health Communications Coordinator
Hilary Knelleken, Associate Administrator, Environmental Health
Dr. Malcolm Butler, Health Officer

Board Discussion

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville & Board Chair, opened the floor to comments and questions from Board members and CDHD staff.

Barry Kling, Administrator, indicated that he shared the latest draft of the reopening proposal via email with all Board Members and CDHD Management Staff prior to the meeting in order to give all Board Members a change to review and comment on potential changes. Barry indicated that there are still some incomplete sections, due in part to the need for information he could not get over the weekend. Barry updated the board on the increase in positive COVID-19 cases that we see in the last week. He

indicated that steep increases may make it harder for DOH to accept this proposal. Barry did send information to the Board on new cases and they cases do not appear to be from clusters. He indicated that the increase in cases may shape our discussion of the proposal. General board discussion took place regarding information related to the total number of COVID-19 positive cases and the rise in new cases in Chelan and Douglas Counties.

Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council, stated that she read in the newspaper and in the proposed draft that CDHD will no longer be reporting the race demographics of positive cases. Ruth expressed interest in keeping the race demographics as they are a powerful educational tool. She stated that limiting this information would actually be a disservice to the Latino community.

Barry Kling, Administrator, stated that CDHD has received additional feedback on this subject and have decided that CDHD will resume posting race demographic figures. The figures will be shown on the CDHD website and the newspaper again soon. Barry welcomed any additional ideas from the board on assisting in educating the public on COVID. He indicated that CDHD has really tried to get the message out – on the ground, social media, radio and print. CDHD will be ramping up efforts on getting the message out to the Latino community.

John Sterk, East Wenatchee City Council, stated that the Governor is coming out tomorrow with new guidelines related to contact tracing. John stated that many community members are uneasy about contact tracing and that educating the public is important. He requested that an emphasis be put on getting information to the public regarding how contact tracing works in order to counteract disinformation that is being circulated.

Barry Kling, Administrator, stated that contract tracing is nothing to fear. It has been used in Public Health for 150 years. The process being that a public health worker – usually a nurse -- calls you on the phone and talks to you about your health and who else you may have been in contact with. He explained that isolation and quarantine is a normal part of communicable disease control. Barry stated that he would be writing information on what contact tracing is and why it's used and maybe help to dispel myths. He stated that it may be helpful to have Dr. Butler do so as well. Barry expressed that he hopes when elected officials hear untruthful information about contract tracing that they will push back and education the public so that people understand it's a form of health care and not a governmental overreach.

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville, was in agreement that contact tracing vital and it's important that we get the contact tracing done accurately.

Unfinished Business

Barry Kling, Administrator, expressed interest in feedback from Board on the wording of the proposal and which types of businesses we want to include in Phase 1.5 and which types we want to wait on for Phase 2. Barry shared the document on the screen and the Board was allowed to comment and make changes to each section as they felt appropriate. Related discussion of revisions took place.

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, He stated that he shared a proposal with the Board via email related to indoor recreation facilities and a request to include these types of businesses allowed to open in the proposal. Concern was expressed about this proposal.

Commissioner Overbay also stated that he wanted the proposal finalized right away and submitted to the Governor by early next week. Many Board members agreed with this timeline.

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville & Board Chair, tasked Barry with continuing to finalize the proposal and set another Special Meeting for Wednesday 5/13 at 3:00 pm at which the Board will review another draft of the Proposal.

Jill Thompson, Board Chair, adjourned the special meeting at 4:55p.m.



Jill Thompson, Board Chair